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Special Libraries

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SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION Boston Meeting.

The first of the meetings of the Special Libraries Association for the coming year will be held in Boston, Friday, November 11. There will be two sessions, afternoon and evening, and a visit to some of the typical special libraries of Boston.

The purpose of these meetings is to promote greater co-operation by sections. The problems to be discussed relate largely to the library facilities of Boston, and plans will be considered for making their use more effective by better co-operation.

One matter of interest to all members will be presented to this meeting—the amendment of the constitution to conform to the rules of the Postoffice Department concern-

ing second-class matter. The amendment proposes to fix the membership fee of the Special Libraries Association at one dollar instead of two, as at present. The subscription price of "Special Libraries" will still continue to be two dollars, but to members the price will be one dollar. Thus the membership fee and subscription will be separated, as required by the Postoffice Department.

PROGRAM.

Boston Chamber of Commerce,
177 Milk St., corner India,
—2 P. M.—

Business Meeting.
—3:30 P. M.—

Address by President of the Special Libraries Association on Its Status, referring, also, to the Business Men's Branch of the Public Library in Newark. John Cotton Dana.

Chamber of Commerce Library and the Facilities It Offers. Lloyd B. Hayes, Librarian.

Statistical Department of the Boston Public Library and What It Offers the Business and Professional Man. Horace L. Wheeler. Discussion: Is There Need for a Down-town Business and Professional Men's Branch of the Boston Public Library? Opened by Dr. Edward M. Hartwell, City Statistician; Horace G. Wadlin, Librarian, Boston Public Library; Walter B. Snow, Publicity Engineer, Boston.

Adjournment, to visit the libraries of: Arthur D. Little, Inc., 93 Broad street; Stone & Webster, 147 Milk street; Insurance Library Association of Boston, 141 Milk Street.

Twentieth Century Club,
3 Joy Street.
—8 P. M.—

The Earning Power of Libraries. D. N. Handy, Librarian, Insurance Library Association of Boston.

Joint Report on Library Resources of Vicinity. G. W. Lee, Librarian, Stone & Webster.

Library of the Children's Aid Society and Plans for Its Enlargement. Miss Elizabeth S. Pendleton.

Discussion: Opened by Charles W. Birtwell, Secretary Children's Aid Society; Lindsay Swift, Boston Public Library; C. Bertrand Thompson, Secretary, Boston—1915.

GUY E. MARION, Sec.-Treas.,
Care Arthur D. Little, Inc.,
93 Broad Street, Boston.

CO-OPERATION IN THE PREPARATION OF BIBLIOGRAPHIES.

A plan for co-operation between the Library of Congress and the state libraries and legislative reference departments in the preparation of reference lists is outlined in an article by H. H. B. Meyer, in this issue. We invite careful attention to this plan on the part of all persons interested in bibliographies on public affairs. The great waste of time and energy which goes to the duplicating of lists already prepared will be minimized by co-operation and attention can be directed toward those subjects on which no bibliographic work has been done.

There is a vast amount of work which needs to be done in special bibliographies. Attention should be directed toward the greater specialization of lists. General bibliographies should be broken up into detailed classified lists. Thus the Library of Congress list on government regulation of insurance should be classified to cover the newer phases of regulation, such as state control of fire rates, etc.

The first essential in co-operation is that each library should determine what already exists before attempting any bibliography, and having prepared any list covering a new subject, whether complete or incomplete, they should let that fact be known.

The attention of special libraries or of any library, for that matter, should not be given largely to the preparing of lists of material. They have a more useful function in interpreting material. Effective co-operation in preparation of lists will leave them freer to perform their more useful functions.

The Library of Congress already has a large number of typewritten supplemental bibliographies to its printed editions and typewritten lists on other subjects. Many of these lists are available for permanent deposit in state libraries or may be loaned for short periods.

INDIANA LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Ethel Cleland, Cataloger.

The purposes and scope of legislative reference work have been fully described too many times to need further definition.* The following is merely an attempt to give a brief summary of the library side of legislative reference work in the Indiana department, which, although patterned, in the main, on the Wisconsin department, has necessarily, from varying conditions, resources and demands, developed its own individuality.

The legislative reference bureau in Indiana is a department of the state library, and naturally the resources of the library are at its service. The use of the material on the shelves of the state library, particularly

the books in the section of political economy and sociology, the public and state documents, the files of bound magazines and the magazine indexes and the newspaper files is a great saving to the department, not only in the matter of expenditure, but also in shelf space, which, as it happens, is very limited. No book, pamphlet or current magazine finds a permanent place on the library shelves until the department has had ample opportunity to review its contents. The catalog of the department, in addition to a thorough and minute cataloging of its own material, contains numerous references to material in the main part of the library, under the necessary definite subjects. Also, there are occasional references to books and articles in the supreme court library situated in the state capitol, and to the Indianapolis city library, a few blocks away. The very progressive board of state charities is close at hand, and the department can and does co-operate with it in investigations along certain lines, as, indeed, it does to a great extent with all the state boards and offices and with various other progressive and charitable movements in the city.

The classification used in the department is a modification of the Dewey decimal system, thus keeping in line as far as possible with the classification of the general library. In most instances, however, it has been found expedient to expand the existing classification, and even on occasion to deliberately depart from it. For example, under railroads the classification includes eighty-two divisions and subdivisions, which will continue to increase in number, where Dewey is content with but one. In place of the forty headings he has devised to classify local government material, one hundred and five are already in use in the department. The insurance classification is now five times as large as it originally was. Hardly a day passes but it is necessary to add or expand a classification number. To facilitate the use of this variation of the classification scheme, a minute subject index to the classification used in the department is kept on cards. In the same way an index is kept up to the almost innumerable subject headings employed, the references and cross references to and from the subjects being carefully indicated.

The catalog is typewritten on heavy durable cards. Each article, once voted of sufficient value to have a place on the shelves, is shelf-listed and cataloged, even if it consists of only a page. The aim is to observe library rules in cataloging. However, in many minor details, it has seemed wise to deviate from strict adherence to rule. Subject, in a legislative reference catalog, is of supreme importance, and anything which will bring out more clearly and concisely what the shelves contain on a given subject, how reliable the source of the information is,

*See Bibliography, Page 60.

the contents, the exact date of compilation or publication, the number of pages it covers, the character of the information, maps, tables, general discussion, etc., becomes the important thing to appear on the card. Close analyzing, condensation of an unnecessarily wordy title or expansion of too brief a one and explanatory notes are employed freely, and it is constantly found that the subjects must be subdivided by place subdivisions, as well as by minor subject subdivisions. That the subjects used must be definite and must be kept consistent with each other cannot be over-emphasized. The finer the subject headings, the more essential does it become that plenty of reference and cross-reference cards are added. Any device which, without interfering with the clearness and exactness at which the catalog aims, saves time and labor to cataloger, copyist or the one using the catalog, should be unhesitatingly employed. For instance, where the collection of laws of various states and foreign countries on a given subject is large, instead of a separate subject card for each law, with title and subject fullness, a subject series card is made which will show at a glance the laws of what states and countries the department has, with, of course, the date of publication in each instance. Although the catalog of the Indiana department has so far been used principally by the department itself and the reference department of the state library, nevertheless it has been made and kept up always with the idea in mind that the general public should be able to use it if necessary, as it is hoped it will eventually do as the work of the department becomes better known and the space for its operation becomes larger and more accessible.

In addition to the shelf list (which consists of almost five thousand items) and the general subject and author catalog, the department keeps up a subject catalog of comparative legislation and a subject catalog of legal decisions. A bill index has been made to all bills introduced within the last four sessions of the Indiana legislature. Files of the printed bills of the last two sessions are kept on hand for distribution when called for. A selection from the bills received in exchange from other states and from foreign countries is filed in filing cases by subject. A culminative index to the session laws of the state has been begun, two subjects, insurance and railroads, having been completed. Recently an index has been made to the messages, particularly the veto messages of the governors, covering the past ten years. Duplicate material, which is in constant use for exchange or free distribution, is classified and kept in order on separate shelves, the shelf list card for the original copy usually indicating whether there are duplicate copies.

In addition to these various catalogs, files

and indexes, which, however numerous and confusing they may seem to an outsider, have passed the experimental stage and proved their efficiency, the department is constantly facing new emergencies for which schemes must be devised that the varied material may be arranged in the best way to facilitate the work. Some of these schemes are only temporary devices, which are given up the moment the need vanishes, such as the daily file kept up during the legislative session of newspaper comment on current legislation. This file of clippings is later gone over and disposed of in various ways. At one period an attempt was made to keep and catalog a collection of important briefs, but the mass to select from was enormous and, for the work involved, they were used so little, that after a thorough trial, the attempt was abandoned. Always the difficult question to answer is how to dispose of certain material which, of too little value and too large bulk to deserve a place on the shelves, still might, if a certain contingency arises, prove of value—if only temporarily—and, therefore, should not be utterly unavailable. It is for this class of material that these so-called temporary devices must be called in. Time may prove that they are worthy of becoming definitely incorporated into the regular routine of work as in the case of the collection of duplicates, or, on the contrary, a few weeks or months may show that the material may safely be disposed of, or at least turned over to the state library for preservation. Each emergency must be met differently; and for an experiment to fail is counted no disgrace, rather a forward step in experience.

Clippings of any permanent value from newspapers and magazines subscribed to by the department or acquired from other sources, are mounted on manila cardboard and put on the shelves with the collections of material on the various subjects they cover. The department aims to receive the leading newspapers from different sections of the country. In addition to two legal magazines, it receives regularly for clipping purposes, the Supreme Court Reporter, the Northwestern Reporter and the advance sheets of the West Publishing Company. From an Indianapolis newspaper exchanges of newspapers are secured, and exchanges of magazines from Municipal Engineering, which is published in Indianapolis. Various state departments send up at intervals to the department accumulations of pamphlets and other material which come to their offices. Articles of value are removed from magazines and books and made into pamphlets. Two styles of the Gaylord pamphlet binders are used; the one more expensive and durable for more valuable material and the other a cheaper variety for a few pages or matter which will only be temporarily on the shelves. Pamphlet boxes are also of

two sizes. The smaller ones hold only a few pamphlets. If the material on a subject increases, it is put into a large or several large boxes.

It is impossible to enumerate the various sources from which material is obtained outside of the usual channels of purchase and exchange. Proceedings of national and state societies on endless topics are always valuable acquisitions. In the past six months an attempt has been made to expand the material already in the department on the subject of municipalities into a municipal reference library to be kept up along with the more purely legislative reference subjects. This has added to the shelves a great many city publications and pamphlets and periodicals issued by commercial clubs, municipal leagues, etc. The active interest of the chief of the department in such subjects as uniform legislation, industrial education, special libraries, enables it to keep in touch with the most up-to-date material on these and kindred topics.

Constant care must be exercised that the shelves do not become congested with material that will never be used or which has outgrown its usefulness. The question is not how much can be crowded on the shelves but how little. Space must be found for anything that may prove of service, but room as well as time cannot be sacrificed for matter which will never be taken down from the shelves. There are always certain subjects, however, on which it is difficult to find information; and on these subjects anything at all must be preserved, but not necessarily forever. As soon as anything of more weight can be found, the earlier material may again be subjected to criticism; and if it is then found in any way inadequate it can be disposed of, having served the purpose of temporary stop-gap. When the question of insurance of bank deposits was first agitated very little printed material could be found on the subject, except in the newspapers which were full of it. For several months the department collection of clippings on guaranty of deposits was not only in constant demand in the department but was widely used by students all over the state. Since then, of course, numerous books, articles and pamphlets dealing with this question have been found, and the bulky collection of mounted clippings can be gone over and for the most part thrown away. In the collections of laws on various topics, to avoid congestion, only the latest issue of the law of a certain state or country is given shelf room; the earlier editions which might be useful for clipping or other purposes are classed with the duplicates and easily accessible.

The loan system is as simple as possible. The only restrictions placed on loans are that the material be returned when the borrower is through with it, and that it be sub-

ject to recall after a reasonable period if an urgent request comes for it from another source. Reading the shelves, which, from the nature of their contents must be done carefully and at frequent intervals, reveals that little advantage is taken of this free system of loans.

Bibliography of Legislative Reference Work

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- Sociological department of California State Library. (In news notes of California libraries, April, 1909. 4p.)
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- Flack, Horace E. Department of legislative reference of Baltimore. (In *Municipal Engineering*, September, 1908. 7p.)
- Lapp, John A. Legislative reference department. (In *Public Officials Magazine*, Indianapolis, July, 1910. 7p.)
- Lester, Clarence Brown. Legislative reference work and the law library. (In *Law Library Journal*, October, 1908. 6p.)
- McCarthy, Charles. Future of the state library. (In *National Association of State Libraries. Proceedings and addresses, 1906*. 8p.)
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- Legislative reference department, with a bibliography. 80p. (Wis free lib com cr of inf. No 6.)
- Mowry, Don E. Growing complexities of legislation. (In 77th general assembly *Record of Ohio*, Jan. 27, 1906.)
- National museum of comparative legislation. (In *Social Service*, October, 1906. 4p.)
- Ohio—State Library. Need of a legislative reference department for Ohio. (Articles by H. W. Crist, C. B. Galbreath and J. A. Lapp, with a bibliography. 18p.)
- Stimson, Frederick J. Legislative reference of the future. (In *American Library Association. Proceedings, 1909*. 8p.)
- Whittem R. H. Comparative legislation in reference work. (In *National Association of State Libraries. Proceedings and addresses, 1906*. 5p.)
- Development of special libraries. (In *Library Journal*, December, 1909. 2p.)
- Two decades of comparative legislation. (In *Law Library Journal*, October, 1909. 6p.)
- Woodruff, Charles H. Improvement of legislation through co-operation and trained experts. (In *Living Church*, Feb. 6, 1909. 5p.)
- Legislative reference work and its opportunities. (In *National Association of State Libraries. Proceedings, 1908*. 6p.)

The Co-Operation of the State Libraries and the Library of Congress in the Preparation of Reference Lists*

H. H. B. MEYER, Chief Bibliographer, Library of Congress.

Last spring a letter was received at the library of congress from the legislative reference bureau of the Pennsylvania state library inquiring if the library of congress could undertake the preparation of reference lists on topics of interest to the various state legislative reference bureaus. In reply the

*Paper read at Mackinac meeting.

librarian pointed out that the library of congress was preparing such lists in the national course of its duties and invited suggestions. The most liberal interpretation was apparently put upon this invitation, and a circular letter seems to have been sent out from the legislative reference bureau of the Pennsylvania state library with the result that a series of letters was received at the library of congress from state librarians and legislative reference librarians in all parts of the country suggesting the preparation of reference lists on subjects in which the writers were interested.

These letters covered a wide range of subjects,—sixty-three in all. The first glance over the field gave us a feeling of chagrin, for we could not help noticing the extent to which all but a few of the lists of subjects submitted for bibliographical research included topics for which the division of bibliography had actually provided printed lists. Our records showed that all of our printed lists had been sent to all of these libraries, and that, moreover, all of the seven or eight editions of the list of publications had been sent to them also. This was somewhat disappointing; but I ought, in fairness, to say that I have had a satisfactory word from some of our correspondents.

The question now arises, what can we do with these subjects? They differ in character and in importance, and an examination from our point of view shows that they may be distributed into three groups: (A), those which fall properly within the scope of the national library; (B), those which seem to fall more within the field of some special bureau of the government; (C), those which are of state or local interest and therefore fit subjects for investigation by some state library. Arranging along these lines and putting doubtful subjects in group (A), we have the following result:

(A). Subjects Within the Scope of the Library of Congress

- **Accounts official and office, Regulation of.
- **Boycotting
- *Casualty insurance (employer's liability).
- Codification of statutes.
- Compiled statutes.
- *Corrupt practices
- **Direct legislation (initiative and referendum)
- *Direct primaries.
- *Employer's liability
- **Guarantee of bank deposits.
- *Immigration bureaus.
- *Income tax.
- *Inheritance tax.
- *Prices and cold storage.
- *Proportional representation.
- *Railroad commissions.
- **Recall
- *Senators, Popular election
- Unemployment.

- *Wage, Minimum.
- **Water power.
- Weights and measures.

(B). Subjects Within the Scope of a Special Bureau

- **Agricultural schools (department of agriculture).
- Drainage (department of agriculture).
- Oyster industry (fisheries bureau).
- **Reforestation (forestry bureau).
- **Road building (office of public roads).
- School hygiene (education bureau).
- Schools, Evening.
- **Schools, Trade.
- Tuberculosis sanitoriums (surgeon general's office).

(C). Subjects for State Investigation

- Budget making (state and city).
- Cabinet system of state government.
- **Commission form of city government.
- Compilation of city ordinances.
- Constitutional conventions.
- *Convict labor.
- County government.
- **Death penalty abolition
- **Employment bureaus
- *Fire insurance regulation.
- Fee system
- Home rule
- *Inebriate asylums.
- **Juvenile courts.
- Legislative expenses.
- Legislative session, Divided.
- Legislature, Annual sessions
- Library commissions.
- *Liquor traffic regulation.
- **Mines, Safety regulations
- Normal schools
- **Public utilities.
- Revenues, Separation of source of state and local.
- Single tax.
- Social and civic centers.
- **State highways.
- **State land grants
- State printing
- **Taxation, State and local
- Taxation of church and school property.
- Torrens land system.
- Traveling libraries.

There is not one of the above questions that is not of great interest to the whole country and worthy of our attention, but my knowledge of our sheer inability to handle so great a number of subjects coupled with the belief that certain special subjects ought to be handled by specialists has prompted the above grouping. The extent to which the division of bibliography has covered this long list of subjects is indicated by the (*) placed before subjects for which printed lists have been provided and (**) placed before

subjects for which typewritten lists have been compiled.

I have placed in the first group compiled statutes, but I question if it is not more properly a subject for state research; or better still, a fine subject for co-operative research. The state librarian of Indiana ought to have on his shelves every edition of every compilation of the laws of Indiana. Similarly in the case of California, Massachusetts, and so on. Now, if the state libraries will each prepare a list of the compiled laws of its own state and send it to the library of congress, we can undertake the editorial work then; and I am sure there will be no trouble about printing a list of such value. Our own direct contribution to such a list would be the compiled statutes of the national government, which are very numerous on the subject side.

Let me now select a subject from the second group,—Oyster industry. Only the more northern seaboard states are directly interested in this subject. Obviously the fisheries bureau is the place where a list of references should be prepared. Road building is of interest to all the states. The office of public roads is probably better acquainted with the literature of the subject than any other office or bureau in the country; the conclusion is no less obvious than in the previous case. My suggestions concerning this second group take two possible directions; one that you make a combined request on the bureau concerned for the list desired, the other that the library of congress prepare a preliminary list with a view to submitting it to the bureau for additions before printing. That this would be no new work for the bureaus is evident to anyone who has looked through the monthly list of documents and noted the large number of government publications containing bibliographies.

My inclusions in the third group may be open to question, but at any rate the subjects are excellently suited to bibliographical research by some state or local office. It is to be noted that the library of congress has not left even this group untouched, seventeen of the subjects are starred.

As a practical plan of co-operation the following suggestions are submitted. The choice of subjects must be left to the library of congress; but, of course, such choice would be largely influenced by suggestions received from the state libraries.

The library of congress will prepare a preliminary list and run off copies on a duplicating machine so as to be able to send one to each state library for addition and suggestion. The lists are then to be returned to the library of congress for editing and printing. This presents a practical plan of co-operation, of which the library of congress is willing to make a trial, in spite of some rather unsatisfactory experiences in

co-operative undertakings in the past. I shall be glad to have your views on the subject.

CURRENT REFERENCES

JOHN A. LAPP, Indiana State Library, Chairman
Legislative and Municipal Reference
Libraries Committee.

Bank Deposits—Guarantee. Kansas law upheld by the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, May 20, 1910. *Dolly vs. Abilene National Bank*, 179 Fed. Rep. 461. Attacked on the ground that it denied the equal protection of the laws to national banks.

Canals. The Ohio Canals. Complete bibliography of material relating to the canals of Ohio. Compiled by the state librarian. Columbus, 1910. 16 pages. Gives also a few of the best references to New York canals.

City Charters. The September bulletin of the Grand Rapids (Mich.) public library contains a bibliography of books and magazine articles on charter making. Appended is a list of cities with dates of charters or of the general laws.

Cost of Living—Belgium. Report of an inquiry by the board of trade of England into working class rents, housing and retail prices in certain occupations in the principal industrial towns of Belgium. *Parl Paper*, 1910. 218 pages. Previous reports have been made on the same subject for the United Kingdom in 1908, Germany 1908, France 1909.

Editorial Reference. The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* issued in 1908 a booklet from their reference and index bureau giving the subject headings and cross-references used in their editorial library. 95 pages. A new edition is in preparation for early issue.

Employers' Liability. The Aetna Life Insurance Company has issued a pamphlet entitled "New York Employer's Liability and Compensation Laws," a discussion of the bearing of this legislation upon employers of labor and insurance companies. The pamphlet also contains text of the laws. Hartford, 1910. 45 pages.

Health Problems—Bibliography. The California department of health began in the July, 1910, number to publish a bibliography of articles appearing in print on public health under the title, "Health Conservation in Magazine, Newspaper and Book." This list fills a real need, as this field had not been touched by the bibliographer.

Hotels. The Washington law of 1909, classifying hotels and fixing inspection fees, was upheld in *State vs. McFarland*, 110 Pac. Rep. 792, so far as it related to classification, but declared void the provision which provided for the imprisonment of the hotel keeper who refused to pay inspection fees, as being imprisonment for debt.

Labor Legislation. The progressive ten-

dencies in the labor legislation of 1909, by Irene Osgood. Reprint from *Am. Pol. Sci. Rev.*, May, 1910. 18 pages. Distributed by the American Association for Labor Legislation. An excellent summary of labor legislation.

Liquor—Bibliography. Five feet of information for impartial students of the liquor problem, prepared by the U. S. Brewers' Association, N. Y. Cites the leading discussions favorable to liquor with a selection from each. 19 pages.

Milk. An ordinance of Minneapolis prescribed, as a test of purity of milk, that the dairies should be subjected to the tuberculin test. This was upheld, July 29, 1910, in *Nelson vs. City of Minneapolis*, 127 N. W. Rep. 445. The court said that the method by which standards of purity should be secured is a legislative question.

Municipal Corruption. Report on the causes of municipal corruption in San Francisco, as disclosed by the investigation of the Oliver grand jury and the prosecution of certain persons for bribery and other offenses against the state. Reprinted by the *California Weekly*, San Francisco, 1910. 54 pages.

Municipal Reports. The city of Chicago has issued from its various departments several special reports of rare interest during the past year, including:

Report on the values of the properties of the Consolidated Traction Company inside the city limits, submitted to the committee on local transportation of the Chicago city council, by Bion J. Arnold and George Weston, traction valuation commission.

Proposed building code for the city of Chicago.

Report on cost of telephone service, by the Chicago Telephone Company, for the year ending March 31, 1910, by D. C. and W. B. Jackson, engineers, and Arthur Young & Co., certified public accountants.

First and second annual reports of the board of supervising engineers, Chicago Traction Company, for years 1907 and 1908. In 2 volumes.

Advance report of the board of supervising engineers, Chicago Traction Company, presenting financial and statistical information for year ending January 31, 1910, being part of the third annual report.

Report of the Chicago harbor commission, made March, 1909.

These may be secured from the Municipal library, 501 City Hall, by the payment of postage.

Primary Elections. The Idaho primary election law of 1909 was upheld by the Idaho Supreme Court in *Adams vs. Lansdon*, 110 Pac. Rep. 280, August 11, 1910. Two points of interest are found in this decision. The

law provided for first and second choice ballots and limited the personal expenditure of candidates to 15 per cent. of yearly salary. These provisions were attacked, but were fully upheld.

Railroads—Damages. South Dakota law of 1907, chapter 215, imposing a double penalty on railroad companies for damage caused by fire set by locomotives, or cattle killed because of failure of railroad companies to fence right of way was upheld, May 24, 1910: *Jensen vs. South Dakota Central Railroad Company*, 127 N. W. Rep. 650. Does not deny equal protection of law or due process of law.

Taxation—Reports. The Virginia state library has compiled a bibliography of American reports on taxation for the use of the state commission which is investigating the subject. Upwards of 110 titles are included.

Taxation—Separation of Sources. The report of the commission on revenue and taxation of California for 1910 reviews the history and reasons for, and gives the text of the constitutional amendment to be voted on November, 1910, to separate the sources of state and local revenues, Sacramento, 1910. 77 pages. This is an exceptionally valuable discussion of this important subject.

Uniform Legislation. The September number of the *National Civic Federation Review* is devoted to the subject of uniform laws. Extracts are given from the speeches of many of the prominent men who addressed the uniform law conference in Washington and in the organization of state councils. Published by the National Civic Federation, Madison avenue, New York City.

Vaccination. The California state board of health bulletin for August contains several articles for and against vaccination as a state policy. Pages 52-110. This number reviews the history of the attempted legislation in California.

Workmen's Compensation. The New York law of 1910, providing for compensation for industrial accidents in certain dangerous employments, was upheld in the trial term of the Supreme Court in Buffalo, in the case of *Ives vs. South Buffalo Railway Company*. This is the first case to be decided under the law, and is therefore significant.

LEGISLATIVE BILL SERVICE.

The plan of the Law Reporting Company to report all bills introduced into the various legislatures and the progress thereon, which was formulated by a committee of the Association of State Libraries, of which Mr. George H. Godard, of the Connecticut State Library, is chairman, was discussed at a joint meeting of the Association of State Libraries and Law Libraries at Mackinac Island. The plan has already been tried during the legislative year of 1910

and the discussion was for the purpose of bringing out its weak, as well as its strong points. The success of the plan requires the co-operation of at least forty libraries at an increased cost over that for 1910.

The possibility of making this reporting service permanent has impressed many with the need of active support at this time, when there is a chance to secure so complete a service by the only agency which is in a position to do the work at a cost which would not be prohibitive.

The chief criticism was directed toward the volume of work which it would entail and the unimportance of the vast mass of special and local bills which are reported. The utility of the service merely to legislative reference departments was doubted. There is, however, a broader aspect which should appeal to state and city libraries, as well as special libraries. Business interests need to be kept in touch with legislation all over the country. Newspapers, organizations, departments of city and state governments, and individuals, can use the service to great advantage. A library installing the service will, by advertising the fact that information may be secured on any legislative bill anywhere, be able to reach a new constituency. The value to a specific business library would be very great. The report of legislation for one's own state is alone worth the cost to the state libraries, law libraries and legislative reference departments. The service contemplates also the furnishing of information on reports of investigations and other legislative documents.

The completeness of the service is unquestioned and libraries are urged to cooperate to make the experiment a success.

LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATION.

In addition to the list of special legislative investigation published in "Special Libraries," September, 1910, there are the following, with the dates of their reports:

- Convict Labor, Indiana, 1911.
- Convict Labor, Michigan, 1911
- Taxation, Virginia, 1912

An Index to Reports of Special Investigating Commissions on Committees Under Legislative or Executive Appointments in the States of the U. S. Since 1890.

This index which is being prepared under the direction of the Legislative Reference Section of the New York State Library, is nearly completed and will probably be published some time during the winter, as one of the State Library legislation bulletins.

The plan of the work has been, not to

make a complete list of such investigations, but to get together in the form of a convenient subject list reference to as many of the reports of such investigations as deal with subjects of general interest and importance, the subjects included in the New York State Library Annual Index to Legislation. Reports of investigations on matters of purely local interest, as bribery and election investigations, have been excluded, also as a general rule, though not without some exceptions, investigations of state institutions.

The words, legislative investigations, have been construed broadly so as to cover, not only special committees and commissions, but also in many cases special investigations by regular state boards provided they were made under distinctly special legislative or executive authorization.

At the present time about five hundred reports have been found and indexed, a very fair proportion of the investigations known to have been authorized during the years covered. A few more will be added before publication.

It is the present intention to print with the index a list of commissions authorized, the reports of which may be expected to appear during the next year.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES.

Information is desired as to any complete or partial, published or unpublished bibliographies on the following subjects:

- Government regulation of fire insurance rates.
- Regulation of interurban electric railways to promote safety.
- Suffrage qualifications under separate headings, namely, education, property, payment of taxes.
- Indeterminate sentence
- Labor party
- Probation and parole.
- Government regulation of weights and measures.
- Paving laws. Digests of laws or bibliographies particularly on method of determination whether paving shall be laid, method of selection of material, assessment of property, and method of payment
- Special collections of material or special libraries on new thought, occult science, psychology.

The accountancy library association of Denver has issued a classified catalogue of their library. This is a handy book of reference to works on accounting. A description is also given of the scope of the library and its methods and rules. Copies may be obtained from Mr. J. B. Gelsbeek, the librarian.

¶ The H. R. Hunting Company, Springfield, Mass., makes a specialty of looking up and reporting on special items. Classified catalogues are issued monthly. Correspondence invited. Special library binding.